



The President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

Elsewhere in this edition you'll find an excellent writeup of our [Field Day](#) effort penned by Darrel (WD6BOR). I won't rehash what he's presented, but touch on a couple of things not mentioned there. First, we can thank Darrel for getting us mentioned on the [Sonoma News website for Field Day](#).

Thanks to Dave (KD6FIL) for crunching the logs from multiple machines into one submission which he sent to the [ARRL](#). He provided me with an ADIF file that I uploaded to [Logbook of the World](#) (LoTW). With these latest QSOs, W6AJF now has 49 of 50 states confirmed. We just need that station in Delaware we worked to confirm in order to get our [Worked All States](#) award!

Traditionally, VOMARC held a picnic during September in lieu of a regular club meeting. Is there an interest in doing this again? Last year we cancelled due to COVID flare up. Things are a bit better now (fingers crossed). If we stick to an outdoor venue will there be enough interest? Please bring your thoughts to July's meeting. If you cannot attend this month's meeting please shoot us an email with your opinion.

NEXT MEETING

Wed, July 20, 2022, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: : : **The ABCs of RFI for Hams**
Presenter: **Bob Brehm (AK6R)**

Minutes of the June 18 Meeting

Members: KA5WSS (Robert), KG6QNT (Eileen), N6TTV (Carl), KD6FIL (Dave), N7PIB (Sanford), W8EWL (John), WD6BOR (Darrel), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), W1EJ (Ed), KM6URP (Kathy)

BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS

Adopt meeting minutes as published in the newsletter? Motion Made, Seconded and approved as written.

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Eileen, KG6QNT - Captions under the picture pictures please

ACS LEAD - Moe, KI6JNU - Absent

VE LIAISON - Elizabeth, N6LY

Upcoming sessions: Jul. 30th (3 signed up) and Oct. 29th.

Masking and reservations are still required.

RADIO OFFICER - Mike, WB6TMH - Absent

Weekly Net Control

This month - Frank, KG6N

Next month - Ed, W1EJ

TRUSTEE - Darrel, WD6BOR

Tower Trailer update- rotor repaired & cable fabricated

We need to contact local officials with invitation for Field Day. Eileen will contact someone at PD.

Old trailer sold for \$100 which covered the rotor cable and fitting.

Do we have a 12 VDC to 120 VAC inverter for the rotor control? Dave has one he will bring.

Still working on storage location.

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Dave, KD6FIL

Got \$500 in fraudulent charges reimbursed.

VICE PRESIDENT - Ed, W1EJ- No news

PRESIDENT - Robert, KA5WSS

Trailer keychains have shipped.

OTHER BUSINESS - FIELD DAY – Sonoma Skypark

Bringing radios

Ed - 7300 + possible VHF radio

Club radio

Carl - K3

Batteries

Dave - 1. Jim's other batteries are dead

Ed - 1 35 Ah

Frank??

Solar Panels

Ed

Dave

Tower - Will Frank bring this?

Computers

Dave - 1 laptop

Darrel - 2 machines

Carl - Win 10 laptop

Tents/Trailers

Frank - Trailer?

Darrel - Pop up?

Ed - Will see if he can borrow a pop up

Other

Filter boxes in EOC

Dave will get EOC key from Moe

Chicken and Sausage for main dish

Will set up info table with ARRL/Ham Radio materials. Dave will pick up some from EOC, Robert also has some.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's meeting topic: ABCs of RFI for Hams - Bob AK6R

Mystery Box drawing - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Jack, K6ZMF, has it for now.

MEETING TOPIC - Field Day planning and VOMARC video

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY, VOMARC VE Liaison

Our next test session is coming up soon.

Register now if you are interested in getting your license or upgrading to the next level.

Test session is on Saturday, July 30th at the Sonoma Police Station EOC.

We have a few spaces left for the 10AM session and reservations are required.

Time:	10:00 AM and 12:30 PM if there is enough demand (Reservations required)
Contact:	Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)
Email:	n6ly.emm (at) gmail.com
Location:	Sonoma Police Station EOC room 175 1st Street West, Sonoma

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- [FCC Registration Number](#)
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCE's and a photocopy of each
- Radiotelegraph license, if held (see VE)
- Exam fee is \$15.00.

COVID-19 Requirements

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, we are still requiring everyone in attendance to wear a mask and adhere to the requirements below.

- **All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email.** See contact info above.
- Sessions limited to ten applicants at a time.
- **All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose).**
- Candidates must bring their own pens and pencils.
- Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year's worth of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

North Bay Area Mesh

We recently received an inquiry from Michael (K6MLF) with an offer and a proposal that I hope we can take advantage of. The [North Bay Area Mesh](#), which is building a high speed Amateur

Radio digital network using microwave links, received a grant from the [Amateur Radio Digital Communications](#) (ARDC) Foundation.

The grant money can be used to install new infrastructure to expand the network in Marin and Sonoma counties. When installing a node at high elevation sites this can be done at no cost to the club or individual hosting the equipment! If you live in such a place please let us know of your interest. Six month loaner nodes are also available to give individuals an opportunity to get familiar with the equipment and test coverage issues in Sonoma Valley.

The group would like to present to the club in person to show off the equipment needed for critical sites as well as that for end users. Of course, we still don't have in person meetings, so I wondered if we could combine the traditional VOMARC picnic meeting with this presentation? At this month's meeting let's discuss possible plans for a September VOMARC picnic, somewhere outdoors, which can include the NBAM presentation.



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

IARU Championship 2022

I poked around during the IARU Championship contest this year. Mostly this just involved dialing around looking for stations to work. Like at Field Day, the start of the contest was marked by pretty bad conditions. Thankfully, things picked up later in the day.

While working stations here and there I finally took some time to figure out the memory keyer functionality of my Yaesu FT-991A. I had thought the optional remote keypad accessory was needed for playback. Turns out I can do everything via the radio's touchscreen. With that newfound knowledge, I was much more confident in trying to make CW contacts since most of my flubs are when sending. I had to listen to some stations for a long time before I deciphered their callsigns at the high speeds typical of contests. But I eventually figured them out.

In the end I made 76 QSOs, 37 of which were CW. I never imagined at the start that almost half of my contacts would be made with Morse Code. Argentina, Cape Verde, Germany, Canada, Alaska, Japan and Australia represent the outer limits of countries worked from my humble home station. Not a large number of Q's, but several new states on CW and some new prefixes made the effort worth it.

Other VOMARC members who reported operating during IARU include Carl (N6TTV), who worked about 100 contacts and John (W8EWL), who picked up a few new countries.

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—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

FCC to Decommission CORES

On July 15, 2022, the FCC will decommission its legacy Commission REGistration CORES system. If you log in to the FCC website using your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password, you must create a new login using the CORES2 system before July 15.

The new version of CORES has been available since 2016. Now its use will be mandatory for all amateur licensees. The [FCC has posted videos](#) to assist with the transition. The [ARRL has also posted instructions](#) on their website.

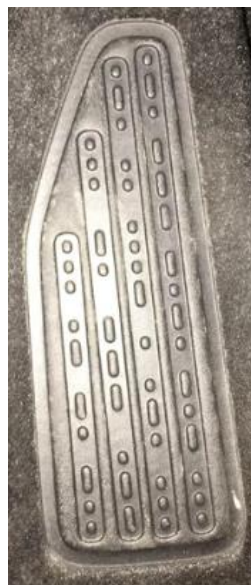
If you do not create a new login before July 15th, and you forget your password, you will not be able to recover it through the new CORES2 system. For those of us who have a license

renewal coming up in the next few years, the time to act is now!

-- Submitted by Andrew KE6HID

Misc

- **Marc (K6GSM)** received his new callsign. His previous callsign was KN6UIH.
- **Sanford (N7PIB)** has worked stations at 2,432 different parks in the Parks on the Air (POTA) program. **Robert (KA5WSS)** just passed 100 unique parks.
- A few club members hunted for contacts with stations taking part in the 13 colonies event. It appears Sanford (N7PIB), Elizabeth (N6LY), Kevin (K6YD) and Carl (N6TTV) worked all of the 13 colonies stations.
- **Sanford (N7PIB)** made contact with Maryland on 40M using FT8, completing yet another Worked All States on that band.
- **Elizabeth (N6LY)** made 30 contacts at Montgomery Woods in a Parks on the Air (POTA) effort.
- **Stan (NJ6E)** reports projects are harder to work on lately due to parts shortages.
- Despite very challenging conditions, **Carl (N6TTV)** worked four 7th call area stations in the Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge on 160M.



Do the patterns on this Jeep footrest look like they're telling you something? It's Morse Code spelling out sand, snow, rivers and rocks.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

The VOMARC Field Day event is in the log books.

It was a great success!

—By Darrell WD6BOR

Although attendance by the members was down this year, we were able to operate three stations using emergency and solar power, which gave us 400 bonus points. We also received bonus points for having a served agency official attend, thanks to Eileen, KG6QNT. She brought out a uniformed officer from the Sonoma Police Department, and we were able to talk to him about the ways amateur radio can be used to supplement their resources in the event of an emergency.



The stations and antennas went up easily because we have members with years of experience setting up for Field Day. The new club tower trailer deployed in about fifteen minutes, the two beam antennas were assembled in

about a half hour, the club tubular military surplus tower that is stored at Frank, KG6N's house, went up without anguish and spilled blood, and everything was ready for operation by 11 am.

Since this is an emergency communications exercise as well as a contest, we were given many opportunities to revise, react and improvise solutions as the day went on.

The new winch on the tower trailer proved to be typically "Harbor Freight quality", and started slipping teeth as we were raising the tower. With a couple lifting straps and a come along, we were able to get it upright and bolted, and I was able to replace the winch during the day so



we could lower the tower at the end of the event Sunday.

The operators reported signal coupling between the Windom wire antenna strung between the two towers. Carl, N6TTV, brought another wire antenna that he and Dave were able to string between one of the towers and a grape stake in the vineyard next to the operating position, and successfully worked the third station throughout the rest of Field Day.

We took a break Saturday evening for barbecued chicken and sausage, with side dishes and desserts brought by the members. I want to thank Phil, KN6MQP, for bringing coffee and donuts for the crew Saturday morning.

We also successfully dealt with a club radio software reset by Dave KD6FIL, soft club batteries, and other normal glitches that arise from this



type of emergency exercise. Dave has the log submitted showing that VOMARC has a total of 2,072 points, with 156 CW QSOs, 249 phone QSOs, for a total of 1,122 points before the addition of the bonus points.

We even had a visiting ham who found us on the ARRL website and came with his camper and operated with us over the weekend. I'm not going to try listing all the VOMARC members who attended because I would be sure to leave someone out, so I'll leave that to Robert KA5WSS.

We'll start planning for another fun Field Day for 2023. Please share your suggestions and observations so it will be better than ever.



—By Ed W1EJ

Another discovery from cleaning Jim's (K6UUW) ham shack last year was a wooden box with a small plate on the front reading "FCJ FREQUENCY METER". I recognized the FCJ of course to be Frank C Jones (W6AJF), our club founder. I brought it home then, but I just got around to checking it out last week. There is a small loop sticking out of the end, and inside are a tuning dial and a 1.5 MA DC panel meter. In the lid is a hand drawn chart showing frequency from 46 to 102 MC on one axis and dial readings on the other. To check it out I put the IC7300 on the 6 Meter band into a dummy load. I keyed the transmitter on various frequencies between 50 and 54 MC and I was able to find them by turning the dial to get a reading. It works! The

9.3 Diode Field Strength Meters and Monitors

The three simple diode field strength meters illustrated in fig. 9.5 have the general circuit arrangement of fig. 9.6. The pick-up single turn coil is coupled to the circuit under test or a pick-up antenna can be coupled to it

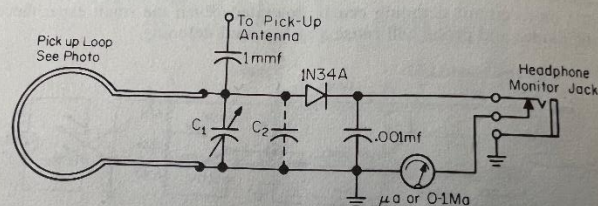


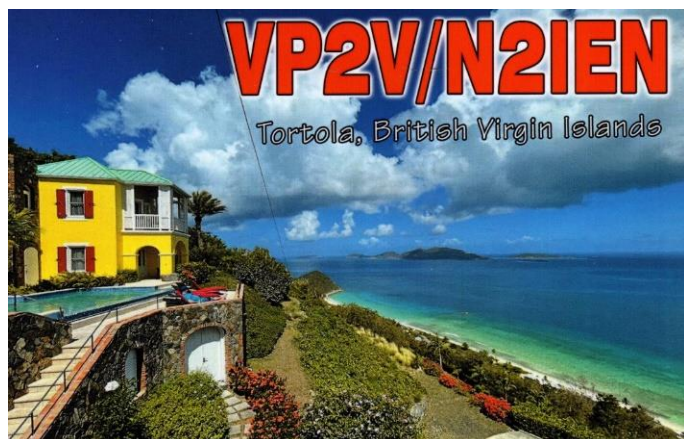
Fig. 9.6—Circuit of the single band field strength meter and monitor. The pickup loop and tuning capacitors C₁ vary for each band. The meter may range from 0-200 μa to 0-1 ma.

calibration is a little off but I think it was not meant to be precise. Frank did many experiments and designs for VHF and UHF devices so I would guess it would be used to determine where in the spectrum a signal was being generated and how strong it might be.

I was going to draw out a schematic of the circuit, but then I remembered that I have a copy of Frank's book "VHF for the Radio Amateur" from 1961. On page 188 is a schematic and a note indicating a different pickup loop and capacitor would be needed for each band. There is a picture of three units, all with different cases, for 144MC, 222MC, and 432MC. For the younger readers the MC translates to the modern MHZ. This unit is a prime example of W6AJF's projects, a little rough looking perhaps but very functional. I will see that this item gets into the club's history collection.



QSL Card Inbox



I've worked a ton of US Virgin Island stations on the air over the years. But I've heard very few British Virgin Island stations for some reason and never managed to work one. The VP2V/N2IEN DXpedition there took care of that void with multiple contacts from 30M through 10M on SSB and FT8.



This card from 3DA0VV confirms on QSO with the Kingdom of Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland. The 20M contact was made using SSB. It's my first card for the country.



I've gotten a number of contacts with Gibraltar under my belt in the last few months. This FT8 QSO on 15M with ZB2R was for a new band country. Since he didn't do LoTW I sent for a physical card. It's a nice one.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 26 EDITION 7 A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC. "—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.